

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2009

## JANUARY 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, January 5 - HAPPY NEW YEAR - 1<sup>st</sup> day of classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester  
JV Wrestling Tournament at Clarinda 4:30

Wednesday, January 7 - Yearbook Field Trip

Thursday, January 8 - JH Girls' BB vs. Essex Here 4:00  
JH Boys' BB at Essex 4:00  
JV/V Wrestling at Tri-Center 5:30  
Varsity G/B BB vs. Essex Here 6:15/8:00

Friday, January 9 - Spanish Trip to Omaha  
JH Girls' BB at Hamburg 4:00  
JH Boys' BB vs. Hamburg Here 4:00  
Varsity G/B BB at Clarinda Academy 6:15/8:00

Saturday, January 10 - Varsity Wrestling at Winterset Tournament TBA  
JV Wrestling Tournament at St. Albert's 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 12 - JV Wrestling at Creston 5:00  
JV/G/B BB at Stanton 6:15  
Regular School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13 - JH Girls' BB at South Page 4:00  
JH Boys' BB vs. South Page Here 4:00  
JV/V Wrestling at Underwood 5:30  
Varsity G/B BB vs. South Page Here 6:15/8:00

Friday, January 16 - JV G/B BB at Sidney 4:00  
Varsity G/B BB at Sidney to follow JV  
Varsity Wrestling Tournament at Mt. Ayr 5:30

Saturday, January 17 - Varsity Wrestling at Mt. Ayr 10:00 a.m.  
JV Wrestling at Bedford TBA

Sunday, January 18 - Public Performance of Large Group Speech Pieces

Tuesday, January 20 - JH Wrestling at Atlantic 4:00

January 21-24 - C.C. Basketball Tournament TBA

Thursday, January 22 - JH G/B BB vs. Clarinda Lutheran Here 4:00

JH Wrestling at Riverside 4:30  
JV/V Wrestling at Red Oak 5:30

Friday, January 23 - Varsity Wrestling at John Harris Tournament TBA

Saturday, January 24 - Varsity Wrestling at John Harris Tournament  
District Large Group Speech Contest TBA  
C.C. Boys' Finals Here 6:15/8:00

Monday, January 26 - JH Wrestling at Glenwood 4:00  
JV Wrestling at Harlan 4:30  
Varsity G/B BB at Fairfax 6:15/8:00

Tuesday, January 27 - JH Girls' BB at Stanton 3:30  
JH Boys' BB vs. Stanton Here 4:00  
JH Wrestling at Harlan 4:00  
JV/V Wrestling vs. East Mills/Criswold at Shenandoah 5:30  
Varsity G/B BB at Stanton 6:15/8:00

Wednesday, January 28 - Bloodmobile at Farragut School 12:00-6:00

Thursday, January 29 - JV G/B BB vs. South Page Here 6:15/8:00

Friday, January 30 - JH Girls' BB at Villisca 4:00  
JH Boys' BB vs. Villisca Here 4:00  
Varsity G/B BB vs. Villisca Here 6:15/8:00  
(Elementary Cheerleaders Perform at half-time of girls' game)

Saturday, January 31 - JV Wrestling Tournament at South Page TBA  
Varsity Wrestling at Red Oak 10:30 (Hawkeye 10 Tournament)

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 2 - JV G/B BB at East Mills 6:15

Tuesday, February 3 - JV/V Wrestling vs. Bedford at Shenandoah 5:30

Thursday, February 5 - JV Wrestling Tournament at Atlantic 5:00

Friday, February 6 - JH Wrestling at Lenox 4:00  
Varsity G/B BB at Hamburg 6:15/8:00  
Afternoon performance of State Speech Performances to JH/HS @ 1:00

Saturday, February 7 - State Large Group Speech Contest TBA  
Varsity Sectional Wrestling TBA

Tuesday, February 10 - JH Wrestling vs. Nebraska City at Shenandoah 4:00

Varsity G/B BB vs. Sidney Here 6:15/8:00 (Parents' Night)

Thursday, February 12 - Girls' BB Districts TBA

Saturday, February 14 - Varsity District Wrestling Tournament TBA

Monday, February 16 - Boys' District BB TBA

February 18-21 - State Wrestling Tournament TBA  
All-State Speech Contest TBA

Monday, February 23 - JH Wrestling vs. Red Oak at Shenandoah 4:00

Saturday, February 28 - District Individual Speech Contest TBA

#### Fourth Grade News: Mrs. Iles

The Farragut Fourth Grade has twelve great students this year. They are Joshua Bockert, Messina Czaplowski, Jane Gutschenritter, Carter Jennings, Chyna Kerr, Johnathan Manchester, Madison Moores, Isaac Parmenter, Mason Poe, Brenna Rivers, Christine Rost, and Taylor Whiting. These students have been a joy to teach. In math the students have worked with basic addition and multiplication facts. They are learning how to multiply one-digit by two- or three-digit numbers estimating and getting exact answers. They have worked with several types of story problems strategies. Graphing and simple probability are other concepts with which they have worked. In English the students have worked with types of sentences and subjects and verbs. They have written various types of short essays: personal, figurative, and informative ones. Daily Oral Language and journaling are done at least two or three times a week. In science they have learned several things about animals' and plants' groupings, adaptations, parenting, habitats and ecosystems. They are now working on physical science concepts: matter, physical and chemical changes, volume, length, and capacity among other things. In social studies the students have studied about our government, our country's history, maps, and important places and people of our country. They have concentrated on the Northeast and Southeast regions so far. In reading the students have been busy reading their guided reading books, working on various vocabulary and comprehension skills, and doing some interesting SEEDS projects. They also do several skill sheets and comprehension units. The students go to the computer room once a week to work on the Power Point Program, to research, and to play educational games. They have used the Promethean Board a few times, but not as much as they would like to use it. The first semester has gone fast!

I ask the students what they would buy their parents if money was no object. The following are the responses I received.

Joshua would buy his mom a tiger cub and a lion cub. He would buy his dad all the tools in the world.

Messina would buy her mom candles, a new car, a new log cabin, and a whole bunch of love. She would buy her dad a tool box and a whole bunch of love.

Jane would buy her mom a koala and a whole library. She would buy her dad tickets to all the wrestling matches in the world and machinery.

Carter would buy his mom a mansion and jewelry. He would buy his dad all the tools in the world and a gun safe.

Chyna would buy her mom an automatic car. She would buy her dad a snowblower.

Johnathan would buy his mom a sewing machine. He would buy his dad a power saw.

Madison would buy her mother a wii with Zelda and other games and a new phone. She would buy her dad a new house with furniture. She would buy Papa a new room to work on his stuff without interruptions and a new lawn mower.

Isaac would buy his mom jewelry and a lot of chocolates. He would buy tools for his dad.

Mason would buy his mom a new car. He would buy his dad a new TV system.

Brenna would give her mom a new house and a new car. She would give her dad a "room-a-doom."

Christine would buy some pretty jewelry, a mansion, and a new car for her mom. She would buy her dad a new gun case, a big kitchen, a big dog, and an eight point buck.

Taylor would buy his mom a new house. He would buy his dad a new car.

I hope you all had a peaceful holiday, and let's all plan on having a great 2009!

## BOARD BITS by Bob Lynn

Do you give your child one full minute of your attention, eye to eye with no interruption everyday? We all want to say, "Yes, of course we do!" But do we really? Do you get down to their level, look directly into their eyes and listen to them without glancing at the clock or TV, having the phone ring, listening to the radio or conversation in the next room, worrying about laundry, supper, the other kids, or global warming? Do we show that child we care about them and what they have to share more than anything else in this world at that moment?

Truth is it's hard for any of us to not be distracted by life when we try to give our full attention to our relationship with our children, even for just a minute. But put yourself in your child's shoes. It may vary according to their age but every child craves and needs the acceptance and support of their parents. Think how they might feel when they have the need to share something and then are not given the time to do so.

In his book "How To Win Friends and Influence People", Dale Carnegie spends a lot of time showing that the human need for acceptance and importance is nearly as strong as the body's need for air or water. So just imagine how critical it is for a young mind to find the attention and praise of the people most important to him, his parents. And just imagine how devastating it can be not to have that recognition and support.

I bring this up to help demonstrate the role of family in a child's education. During the first eighteen years of a student's life only about 13% of his waking hours are spent in school. Yet we (yes, I am including myself) rely on our school systems to do the majority of the formal education of our prized children. It seems out of balance when looked at this way.

Sam Redding led the Early Bird Workshop at the IASB Convention. Sam shared his experiences of dealing with students in low-income areas in Chicago. Studies have repeatedly shown that children of low-income households will struggle more in school. Both of these stories are about poor African American families in neighborhoods where many young adults never finished high school.

The first is about a family with six children. Every night as the supper dishes were cleared the father would bring out the blue dictionary and drop it right in the middle of the kitchen table indicating it was time to do homework. He stayed in the room until everyone had their homework finished. Four of the six kids went on to complete four years of college and all six moved into successful careers as adults. The importance of their education was never a question within the family. It was years later that the children learned their dad was focused on their education, because he had never learned to read himself and was determined the same obstacle would not burden his children.

The other family was a single parent household with four children. They lived in a three-room apartment with no quiet place to study. To overcome the problem mom brought home a large appliance box and set it in a corner with a desk, chair, and lamp inside. Anytime someone went into the box the TV

was tuned off and the household was quiet until the homework was completed. There was no question about the importance of school and homework in the home.

So what's it like at your place? Do you spend one on one time with each child each day? Do you demonstrate your expectations for schoolwork and are those expectations high and unwavering? Or do you have some opportunity areas that could be addressed? I'll share more about this in the coming months because we only have one chance to give every child the education they need and deserve.

### Elementary Update-Mrs. Bredensteiner

The month of December flew by with a whirlwind of activities. The Christmas concerts were wonderful. The students enjoyed the Christmas movie at the Colonial Theater in Hamburg as a treat from the staff. As of this writing, weather will determine if we have a pizza celebration for the elementary students reaching the reading goal for first semester. Otherwise, they will get to celebrate their accomplishment when we return in January.

The first semester ends December 19. Teachers will have the grade cards completed the first week in January and the cards will be mailed to parents. Second semester's work will begin January 5.

During the middle of January the kindergarten, first, and second grades will be given the DIBELS tests. The results will be shared with parents at conferences in February.

The staff will have a SEEDS Professional Development day January 26 so students will not have school on that day.

I hope all of you have happy, safe, and healthy holidays!

### **From the Helm of the Ship**

**Jay D. Lutt, [jlutt@farragut.k12.ia.us](mailto:jlutt@farragut.k12.ia.us)**

#### **2009 and beyond**

Wow! 2009 is here. Can you believe it? The future is here and in 365 quick days we will celebrate 2010. It doesn't seem right as I remember the excitement in 1999 as we all looked together at the dangers of Y2K. Just a decade before in 1990 computers were being introduced into schools with no direction on what to do with them, as they were just heavy paperweights. Now look at the Christmas presents children received to where we have come: iphones, ipods, mp3 players, cellphones, smartphones, Bluetooth, BlueRay DVD, DVD personal players, smartphones, laptops, desktops, video game consoles that allow you to make your own band or start your own universe, handheld video games and my personal favorite that my nephew received, the Didji a custom learning handheld gaming system for preschool to elementary students.



I consider all three of my children, ages 8-17 to be “digital natives.” What is a digital native you ask? A digital native is a person that has grown up with technology such as the internet, cell phones, and mp3s to name a few and do not know the difference. They do not remember Y2K or what it was like before cellphones. They don’t understand a world without the internet. Those are the children we are teaching in school. They are interested in their friends and people they have just met through myspace.com and facebook.com or nurturing their SIM people or in my youngest case his Webkins animals. They enjoy watching “average Joes” become stars on youtube.com and post their own videos.



So how does a non-native teacher reach these kids? Good question. A great many books and experts are giving their best guesses on a solution. My best guess right now is to ask the kids. As school comes back in session I am going to make it a priority to talk with the kids and see what they feel is needed to engage them in learning.

Secondly, purchasing technology needs of the school is a priority. Farragut has a computer network it can take pride in. Our students have the availability to use fast computers and software. The addition of Promethean boards to the school this year has changed what a chalk-board can do. We will continue to focus on putting these into the classroom. A big ticket item that the district needs to look at is a mobile laptop lab.

Using the newsletter I will keep you informed about technology in our schools and some of the answers I received from student groups.

#### **Board Questions about Whole-Grade- Sharing**

The Board of Education is taking two questions a month from the public about Whole-Grade-Sharing and answering them to the best of their knowledge. Those questions are reviewed at the regular board meeting and then posted on-line. If you have a question about the process of whole-grade-sharing, post your question at <http://www.farragutschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/2008/11/21/4926d42ba8bfd> or search Questions to the Board on the front of the web-site.

#### **School Special Election-Board Membership**

During the January meeting board members will act to either have a special board meeting this spring that would change the membership from a seven member district board to a five member at-large district that would take effect this fall or wait until the regular election time and the change would then be in effect in 2011.



**Health Notes**

During everyone's travels during the holidays there is one thing we have been giving and receiving all Christmas break, germs and viruses. From shopping in malls to family get-togethers without our notice germs and viruses are going to be shared. We teach students to wash hands and use anti-bacterial soap, but that only kills germs. When school starts up in January we will continue sharing with our friends. Please have an alternative plan ready in case the Health Associate calls telling you that your child is sick. Please call or consult the handbook if you have any questions about our health policies.

**School Alerts: Weather**

As the weather in December showed us, the ice and snow can shut down the school very quick. Please take a few minutes to sign-up at Iowa School Alerts (listed below) to have an email sent to you or a text message sent to your phone. This is a free service provided by the state!

<https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>

**Visit us on the web @ [www.farragutschools.org](http://www.farragutschools.org)**



**From the Helm of the Ship**  
**Jay D. Lutt,**  
[jlutt@farragut.k12.ia.us](mailto:jlutt@farragut.k12.ia.us)

**2009 and beyond**



One of my missions has been to lead our district with the use of technology. I believe we have one of the finest networks with computer access for students in the region. I am going to stress to continue utilizing funds for these measures plus putting in a mobile laptop lab and Promethean boards for most classrooms. But technology is not all of what our students need to be competitive in a global society.

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